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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 18 July 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement adopted by the Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the latest situation in Banja Luka in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would appreciate if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Pakistan to the United Nations and
Chairman of the OIC Contact Group on
Bosnia and Herzegovina in New York

ANNEX

Statement on the situation in Banja Luka, adopted by the Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on 13 July 1994

The Contact Group of the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina held a meeting in New York on 13 July 1994 to consider the continuous and systematic practice of ethnic cleansing perpetrated, and in recent months intensified, in the Serb-held territories in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular in the Banja Luka region.

They strongly condemn the continuing hostilities by the Bosnian Serbs, in particular the abhorrent policy of ethnic cleansing and the variety of tactics employed towards this end, including murder, rape, fire-bombings and demolition of houses, arbitrary imprisonment usually accompanied by beatings and/or torture, physical intimidation and harassment, dismissal from jobs, etc., all of which have been thoroughly documented by numerous United Nations and other independent international human rights bodies and organizations.

They emphasize that this persistent and systematic practice of ethnic cleansing by de facto Serb authorities and forces in Banja Luka and other areas constitutes a clear violation of the agreement of 8 June 1994 on the cessation of hostilities, as well as relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and the Geneva Conventions, and it also seriously jeopardizes the ongoing peace effort.

Such acts are also inconsistent with the proposed peace settlement, whereby the right of refugees to return freely to their homes is proclaimed. Any peace plan can neither condone nor acquiesce in the appalling practice of ethnic cleansing.

They demand that the Serb authorities immediately put an end to these despicable acts, some of which constitute a form of genocide.

The members of the Contact Group call for the immediate deployment of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops and United Nations monitors to the region in order to deter further attacks on civilians and human rights abuses against the non-Serb population in Banja Luka and other Serb-held areas in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.